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New Librarian of Tacoma, John Boynton Kaiser



LIBRARY'S DUTY IS TO SERVE PUBLIC, SAYS J. B. KAISER

"A public library can and should be of service to all elements of a community but in order to have the best results from co-operation all the elements of the community must become acquainted, and have a sympathetic understanding of each other's aims, duties, needs and resources. The librarian has much to learn from his community. The library has much to offer," said John Boynton Kaiser, the new librarian of the Tacoma library, in an interview with The Tribune.

"It would be presumptuous for me at this early stage to comment at

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length on the local library situation, yet it can be said by any one familiar with library work in this country that Tacoma may well be proud of her progress in library affairs during the past few years.

"Much is rightly expected of the library of today, and the library which is not making itself of positive value to all the educational, social, religious, scientific literary and business interests of its community is not filling its proper sphere of activities. Again, the public library of today has become one of the most potent factors in civic betterment and municipal government, by making it its duty not to suggest what should be done but to put at the disposal of those concerned with the administration of civic affairs the comparative experience of other cities and the best thought of modern times on all problems of municipal government and administration.

"A library's efficiency in these fields is dependent on its financial resources, its equipment and staff, location and building space. And a library though not co-operating with all these agencies, may be doing the best it can under its fixed limitations. We are handicapped here by an unfortunate location and crowded building as is generally known.

"Our library's motto, "If we please you, tell others; if we don't, tell us." If you don't find what you need, let us know and the chances are we will buy it or borrow it at once and you will be notified by telephone of its arrival.

"The librarian, you know, has no opinions on public questions. He must be impartial, non-partisan, unprejudiced and sympathetic toward all; he must be open to suggestion; should welcome just criticism and bear in mind that it is his privilege to be the administrator of a public institution for the benefit of all the people of the community."



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